

Fact Sheet

Proposed Amendment to the K Basins Interim Remedial Action Record of Decision

U.S. Department of Energy - Washington State Department of Ecology - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology (the Tri-Party Agreement Agencies) want your comments on a Proposed Plan for an amendment to the K Basins Interim Remedial Action Record of Decision (ROD). The proposed changes affect the treatment and disposal of K Basin sludge and the retrieval, treatment and disposal of some underwater debris.

Background

The Tri-Party agencies are proposing changes to the cleanup of two in-ground, water-filled, concrete basins in Hanford's 100 K Area. These two basins, the K Basins, were built in the mid 1950s for the temporary storage of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) from the K and N Reactors. Each basin is 125 feet long, 67 feet wide, 21 feet deep and holds about 16 feet of water. They provided under water storage for 2,300 metric tons of SNF. Some of the spent fuel corroded into highly radioactive sludge which mixed with natural particles, such as insects and windblown dust and settled into the bottom of the basins.

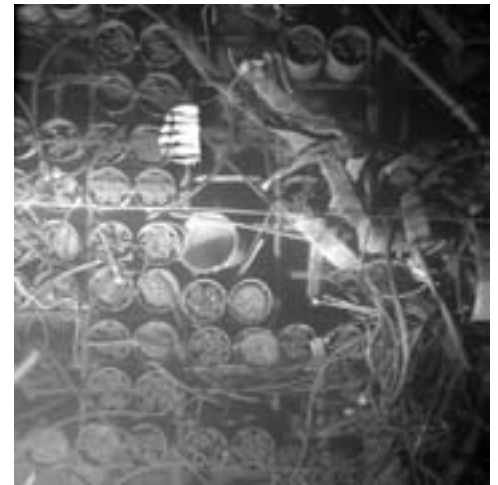


Spent Nuclear Fuel Sludge

All of the SNF has been removed and the next major step in cleanup of the basins is to remove the sludge. About 50 cubic meters of sludge (the equivalent of approximately 200 55-gallon drums) is spread throughout the two basins. In addition to sludge, the basins contain a large amount of contaminated debris, most of which are metal racks and cans that were originally used to store the fuel. Recently negotiated Tri-Party Agreement milestones lay out the schedules for this work.

What are we proposing?

The TPA agencies are proposing to amend the K Basins Interim Remedial Action Record of Decision (ROD) that was issued in 1999. The 1999 ROD proposed that the 1) spent fuel be removed, stabilized, and placed in interim storage, 2) sludge be removed and transferred to interim storage, 3) water be removed and treated, and 4) debris be removed and disposed on-site or placed in storage for future disposal.



K Basin Fuel and Debris

The proposed amendment does not change what was proposed for the SNF or basin water. However, it does recommend that the sludge be treated prior to being transferred to interim storage before disposal off the Hanford Site and that some of the debris be grouted in place and removed at the time the basins are removed. The removal of the basins will be consistent with the removal of other 100 Area fuel storage basins.

Public Comment

The Tri-Party agencies want your feedback on the Proposed Plan for an amendment to the K Basins Interim Remedial Action Record of Decision.

The public comment period will run from **January 19 through February 22, 2005.**



Fact Sheet

How you can become involved

A 30-day public comment period on the Proposed Plan for an amendment to the K Basins Interim Remedial Action ROD will run from *January 19 through February 22, 2005*. No public meeting is scheduled at this time. To schedule a meeting call either Paul Pak (509-376-4798) or Larry Gadbois (509-376-9884) by February 1, 2005. The Tri-Party agencies would like your comments on this document and will consider all comments before finalizing it. **Please submit your comments to:**

Paul Pak
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, A5-16
Richland, Wa. 99352
Fax: (509) 376-0306
Paul_M_Pak@rl.gov



Larry Gadbois
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Hanford Project Office
712 Swift Blvd., Suite 5
Richland, Wa. 99352
Fax: (509) 376-2396
gadbois.larry@epa.gov

*To obtain a copy of the Proposed Plan call the Hanford Cleanup Line: 800-321-2008.
The document is available electronically at <http://www.hanford.gov/calendar>
under the Public Comment Period section*

The document is also available for review at the
Public Information Repositories listed below.

HANFORD PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORY LOCATIONS

Portland
Portland State University
Branford Price and Millar Library
934 SW Harrison
Attn: Judy Andrews (503) 725-4126

Richland
U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
2770 University Drive
Attn: Janice Parthree (509) 372-7443

Seattle
University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Division
Attn: Eleanor Chase (206) 543-4664

Spokane
Gonzaga University Foley Center
East 502 Boone
Attn: Linda Pierce (509) 323-3734

Information Repository web site address:
<http://www2.hanford.gov/arpir/>

Fact Sheet

Fact Sheet

Department of Energy
P.O. 550 MSIN A7-75
Richland WA, 99352